

Useful Internet Sites

Washington State Adolescent Website

www.independence.wa.gov

National IL and ETV Information

www.statevoucher.org

www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/state_pages.shtml

www.nrcys.ou.edu/nrcyd/programs.shtml

Federal Financial Aid Assistance

www.fafsa.ed.gov

Standard Tuition & Fees

www.nces.ed.gov

Grants and Support

Gear Up Grant

www.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html

TRIO

www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html

FosterClub

www.fosterclub.com

Orphan Foundation of America

www.orphan.org

Foster Care Alumni of America

www.fostercarealumni.org

Casey Family Programs

www.Casey.org

www.Caseylifeskills.org

Washington Success Foundation

www.collegesuccessfoundation.org

Other Education/Vocation Opportunities

Americorps

www.americorps.org

JobCorps

www.jobcorps.org

“Without the help of my Independent Life Skills Case Manager I don’t know exactly where I would be right now, but I am proud to say I am entering my second year of college and I owe it to my case manager for showing me all of the options I had.”

– Sheena age 20

“Thanks to the assistance and team work of my foster family and my IL case manager I am graduating next spring with my Associates degree and plan on attending a four year university. Thanks guys!”

– David age 20

“A lot of times people look at foster kids and think they won’t amount to much. They are wrong. My IL worker and my foster parents have shown me that hard work pays off and with the help of the grants I am eligible for, I can now actually look at my future and make plans for a better life.”

– Angel age 16

Washington State’s Foster Care Independent Living, Transitional Living, and Educational and Training Voucher Programs

Helpful Information for Youth and Young Adults



Washington State's Adolescent Services
Building a Brighter Future



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Independent Living (IL)

The Independent Living program is for youth ages 15 up to age 18 who are in the legal custody and care of DSHS or tribal out of home care.

The IL program helps youth get ready to live on their own by giving them information about:

- How to stretch your money.
- How to get and keep a job.
- Daily living skills.
- How to get along with others and build a support network.
- How to find and keep a safe place to live.
- How to do well in high school or get a GED.
- How to prepare for education or training past high school.
- How to speak up for yourself and get your needs met.

For more information about IL or TL, email ILSKIDS@dshs.wa.gov or contact your local DCFS office. You can also check out our website at: www.independence.wa.gov.

Transitional Living (TL)

Transitional Living services are for current and former foster youth ages 18-21 entering adulthood who want to make it on their own.

The TL program provides services to young adults to help them succeed; these services can include:

- Educational services which can help with everything from learning to read to getting ready for and getting into a college or training program.
- Learning about job opportunities, how to apply for and interview for jobs.
- One-on-one coaching and help getting the skills needed to live on your own such as:
 - How to manage your money.
 - How to find and keep safe housing.
 - How to make smart spending decisions and what to do if you get into money trouble.
 - How to be a good parent if you have a child.
 - How to find a doctor or dentist.
 - Where to go in your community to socialize and find support.

You can get Independent Living and Transitional Living Services through local contracted agencies who provide workshops, classes, individual sessions, and/or community experiences all tailored to meet your needs.

Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

The ETV program can help pay for school and living costs to current and former foster youth up to age 21 who are seeking education and training beyond high school. Youth enrolled in an accredited school or program before age 21 may be eligible to continue receiving ETV until their 23rd birthday.

A student's ETV award is based on unmet need in the students cost of attendance as determined by the school or program, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per academic year.

ETV can be used for:

- School Tuition and fees, On-campus or off-campus housing allowance.
- Books, supplies, and fees.
- Day-care if you have a child.
- Costs relating to a disability such as tutoring or adaptive Software.
- Miscellaneous expenses, including rental or purchase of a personal computer, internet service, and phone service.

For more information on ETV email ETVWASH@dshs.wa.gov or call 1-877-4EDUETV. You can also find more detailed information on our website at: www.independence.wa.gov.